हरियाणा के कुंडली और झज्जर में आईआईटी कैंपस का करार

नेशनल ब्यूरो | नई दिल्ली. हरियाणा के कुंडली और झज्जर में आईआईटी दिल्ली के विस्तार कैंपस के लिए केंद्रीय शहरी विकास मंत्रालय के निकाय एनबीसीसी और आईआईटी के बीच अधिकारिक करार हो गया है। हाल ही में ‘भास्कर’ ने बताया था कि इन दोनों जगहों पर आईआईटी के विस्तार कैंपस के लिए दोनों संस्थाओं के बीच अंतिम स्तर की बातचीत चल रही है। एनबीसीसी के सीईमडी अनूप कुमार मित्तल ने कहा कि यह करार करीब 300 सौ करोड़ रुपए का है। इसके तहत आईआईटी के राजीव गांधी एजुकेशन सिटी कुंडली के कैंपस के साथ ही झार में भी एक विस्तारित कैंपस बनाया जाएगा। अनूप मित्तल ने कहा कि इसके साथ ही आईआईटी दिल्ली में भी विभिन्न निर्माण कार्य के लिए समझौता पत्र पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कार्य प्रोजेक्ट मॉनिटरिंग कंसलटेंसी के आधार पर होगा। इसके तहत उन्हें समयबद्धता के साथ सभी निर्माण कार्य की जानकारी दी जाती रहेगी।
13 Indians now head major global firms, 4 studied at St Stephen’s

From Satya Nadella at the helm of software giant Microsoft to Rajeev Vasudeva heading professional services firm Egon Zehnder, there are 13 Indians who are today CEOs of major global corporations. As many of four of these 13 are alumni of Delhi’s St Stephen’s College, the institution that figures most often in the educational background of this elite list. Interestingly, three of those four are also from IIM, Ahmedabad.

With another of the CEOs being an alumnus of Delhi University’s Shri Ram College of Commerce and DPS, Mathura Road, and at least one other having done his schooling from Modern School, the capital can justifiably claim to have provided the platform for no less than six of the 13 CEOs.

The four Stephanians are Ivan Menezes of Diageo, the alcoholic beverages firm, Mastercard’s Ajay Banga, financial services giant DBS Group’s Piyush Gupta and Vasudeva. Apart from Vasudeva, the others went on to do an MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad.

Anshu Jain, head of Deutsche Bank, got his bachelor’s degree from SRCC after studying at DPS Mathura Road. Rakesh Kapoor, who heads Reckitt Benckiser, studied at Modern School.

Apart from St Stephen’s and IIM-A, no other institute in India figures more than once on the list. PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi is an alumnus of IIM, Calcutta while IIT Kharagpur is the alma mater of Berkshire Hathaway boss Ajit Jain. IIT Roorkee is in the biodata of Dinesh Paliwal, who heads Harman International.
What the Rise of a Non-IITian Tells Us

A good nerd does not necessarily a leader make

Now that we have cheered ourselves hoarse over the elevation of an Indian to the top of the fourth-largest company in the world by market capitalisation, it is time to ask if there is anything to learn from Satya Nadella’s rise. Microsoft is full of brainy graduates of India’s premier institutions of engineering, the IITs, besides graduates of the best schools of many other countries. Yet, Nadella, from a relatively humble Manipal Institute of Technology, has been chosen to lead Microsoft at a time of great challenge. Not that his engineering skills are in question. Rather, his non-engineering talents seem to have helped him vault over droves of talented nerds.

Young Satya, we are told, was an all-rounder at school. He played a lot of cricket, played pranks, loved music, was a champion debater and a good student, but not at the top of his class. And he fell in love with, wooed and married a girl who was a junior both at school and college. This is not the picture of the ideal student most Indians have in mind: disciplined, focused souls who curb every natural instinct to explore the world outside their study material and are exemplars of filial piety, especially when it comes to marriage. It is perhaps likely that such curbing of curiosity, rebellion and non-scholastic interests allows bright minds to game the tough entrance test for IITs, but robs them of, at least, a part of their creative instincts and ability to innovate and experiment. The new economy calls for not just hard-core technical skills but for the ability to think out of the box, to innovate and to take calculated risks. We need to ask whether the IIT culture is stripping some of our brightest youngsters of a major part of their potential.

We need many more quality educational institutions. Education itself must change from mastering texts to questioning knowledge as it exists, so as to create it anew, and to add to it. This calls for a change of culture in general, in how schools are run, in relative salaries of teachers vis-à-vis others. We need armies of tolling engineers, but we need our share of Nadellas, too.
Karnataka student in IIT-K commits suicide

LUCKNOW, DHNS: In yet another suicide case within a span of three months at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur), a B Tech student allegedly killed himself in his hostel room on the campus.

Police sources said the student, Manjunath from Karnataka killed himself by consuming some poisonous substance. His body was recovered from his hostel room on Wednesday.

Manjunath, 21, a third-year BTech student in Computer Science, was said to be suffering from depression and stress. Sources in the IIT-K said the student came from a ‘troubled background’. They said he had lost his father and sister and was survived by his mother.

The sources also said he had also consulted a psychiatrist at the Institute.

Incidentally it is the third suicide at IIT-K in the past three months. Several students have committed suicide at the Institute in the past about eight years. The IIT-K had recently said after the death of a student under mysterious circumstances last month that it was not possible for the institute to ‘keep an eye’ on all students. It said there were over 6,000 students at the institute and the management could not control their movements.
SECOND SUICIDE AT IIT-K IN A MONTH

ALARMING 4 students have died at the campus since December

HT Correspondent

KANPUR: An alarming trend is emerging at one of India’s leading educational institutes, which needs to be looked into and stopped.

A third-year Bachelor of Technology student of the Indian Institute of Technology’s Kanpur campus was found dead on Tuesday night in what is the fourth death of a student from this premier engineering college in less than two months.

The student was identified as Manjula Nithi Nekar, a Karnataka native, who suffered from polio. Authorities found sleeping pills from his room and cops suspect he poisoned himself with an overdose. While no suicide note was recovered, friends say he was upset over his sister committing suicide last year.

Earlier in January, a student allegedly killed himself at the railway tracks nearby. Two other students had died in the last two months and officials deny they were cases of suicide, blaming cardiac arrests instead.

Nekar, who hailed from a modest background, would attend classes in a wheelchair and was an average student. “He was suffering from depression and was under the treatment of an in-house psychiatrist for the past several months,” said the registrar.

Suicides at IIT-K are a common occurrence. But the frequency at which they are now occurring indicates that stringent measures need to be taken to curb mental stress.

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Indian physicist claims he resolved Black Hole paradox much before Stephen Hawking

All India | Indo-Asian News Service | Updated: February 05, 2014 22:24 IST


A new paper released late last month in which famed British physicist Stephen Hawking contradicts his own theory and says that Black Holes - in the real sense - do not actually exist has startled the world science community.

But Abhas Mitra, a theoretical physicist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai, is not at all surprised. "I said more than a decade ago that the Black Hole solutions found in Einstein's General Theory of Relativity actually correspond to zero mass and are never formed. This implies that the so-called Black Holes candidates must be Grey Holes or quasi-Black Holes," Mitra told IANS. "Hawking is saying the same thing now."

Mitra's papers, published in peer reviewed journals since 2000 - that still remain unchallenged - maintain that there can be objects in the universe that are quasi-static or "eternally collapsing" but not exactly Black Holes. "This work was largely ignored by mainstream physicists as well as the media while Hawking’s recent two-page online paper saying exactly the same thing has become hot international news," Mitra noted.

He said this happened even though several American astrophysicists verified his prediction that such quasi-Black Holes must have strong magnetic fields unlike the real Black Holes, adding that even Harvard University issued a press release to this effect in 2006.

A Black Hole, according to its proponents, results from gravitational collapse of a massive star after it runs out of fuel for nuclear fusion. A Black Hole is all vacuum except for an infinitely dense central point called "singularity," Mitra said.

As the theory goes, a Black Hole is surrounded by an imaginary boundary called "Event Horizon" that shuts everything within, allowing nothing - not even light - to escape. An object crossing the Event Horizon gets forever trapped and crushed at the singularity, destroying all the information about the object as well. This
directly conflicts with the laws of quantum physics that say information can never be completely wiped out. This is the Black Hole "information loss paradox".

The Black Holes also pose a "Firewall Paradox" which arises from the claim that Event Horizon, under the quantum theory, must actually be transformed into a highly energetic region, or firewall, that would burn any approaching object to a crisp. Although the firewall obeyed quantum rules, it flouted Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, Mitra said.

Hawking's latest paper attempts to resolve the Firewall Paradox by proposing that gravitational collapse produces only an Apparent Horizon but not an Event Horizon that is the hallmark of a true Black Hole. He said the absence of Event Horizons means there are no Black Holes in the sense they are usually visualized.

Mitra said he has shown before that there can be no Event Horizon by using the classical theory without invoking uncertain quantum physics as Hawking has done.

In fact, in a series of peer reviewed papers, Mitra has shown that no true Black Holes can ever form. The so-called Black Holes observed by astronomers are actually radiation pressure supported Eternally Collapsing Objects (ECOs). These balls of fire are so hot that even neutrons and protons melt there and whose outward radiation pressure balances the inward pull of gravity to arrest a catastrophic collapse before any Black Hole or 'singularity' would actually form.

"Incidentally, our Sun is also a ball of fire hot enough to melt atoms," Mitra noted.

"Thus, the realization that there can be no true Black Holes and the so-called Black Holes are actually ECOs resolve both the Information and Firewall paradoxes," Mitra said.

"Hawking has now arrived at the same conclusion from tentative arguments while our results are based on exact calculations and were published in a series of peer-reviewed papers over 13 years ago," Mitra added.
Globalisation top agenda for IIM-A’s new director

It’s been four months since Ashish Nanda took charge of India’s top management institute and there are a host of changes on campus

VINAY UMARIJ
Ahmedabad, 5 February

A
fter the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) slipped in the FT Global MBA rankings this year, globalisation is on top of the to-do list of its new director, Ashish Nanda.

Four months after taking charge as the director, Nanda, a former Harvard professor, has suggested faculty members calibrate IIM-A’s academic year with that of other global B-schools.

“Globally, the academic calendar is such that summer internships, for instance, are held from July to September unlike in India, where it takes place between April and June. In one of the review meetings, the director had suggested the idea of calibrating IIM-A’s academic calendar with that of B-schools in the western world,” says a senior faculty member on condition of anonymity.

The director, it has been learnt, believes this will help IIM-A work in tandem with other global B-schools and enhance global partnerships.

Besides, enhancing quality and decentralisation of work are on the to-do list. According to sources, Nanda has been working on these through frequent meetings with faculty, staff and students.

Nanda has already met two-thirds of the 90-odd faculty members in one-on-one meetings with them.

“In the previous administration, faculty meetings with the director would be as low as three or four in a year. On the contrary, in last four months, the new director has held faculty meetings four times,” a senior faculty member says.

The director is also learnt to have had several review meetings with respective stakeholders and officebearers on various issues such as PGP programmes, infrastructure, health, sports facilities, research and placements among others. “The director is reviewing how the campus functions in various aspects and what changes could be brought about in each of these,” adds the faculty member.

“These meetings have been very useful in understanding where we are and what our potential is. And, it has also been useful to me to help the faculty members get the sense of me,” says Nanda.

Since Nanda took charge, visits by many foreign students, faculty and other experts for various events on the campus have increased.

According to Nanda, the institute has been inviting several faculty members from top institutions across the globe to give lectures and interact with the faculty.

“Our student exchange programmes continue to be very active and productive. IIM-Ahmedabad has almost one third of its PGP student body going on exchange programmes and has agreements with more than 100 schools all over the world for their students to come, which provides some exposure to international participants,” adds Nanda.

Another thing faculty members are happy with is the greater sense of freedom and autonomy that Nanda has brought in. “One thing that stands out for faculty is the fair amount of decentralisation that he has brought in. Not everything has to now go up to the director’s office for approval,” says another senior faculty member.

Nanda believes he has his job cut out, at least in the immediate future.

Over the next six months or so, his objective is to push forward these three items — increased connections with the world of practice and policy as well as local community, nurture a work environment of excellence, and expand capacity.

“IIM-A is a terrific institution but it could have stronger connections with at least three constituencies, viz the world of practice and policy, global connections and the local community. The second initiative is building and nurturing a positive work environment of excellence. And the third initiative that I am working on is growing capacity,” says Nanda.
Post-disaster communication device by IIT

AGE CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, FEB. 5

A major disaster management project has taken to the skies. The project is undertaken by the IITs at Madras, Hyderabad and Kanpur, along with the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and the universities of Keio and Tokyo, Japan. Prof. Devendra Jalihal from the department of electrical engineering at IIT Madras heads the part of the project dealing with post-disaster communication.

The project involves deploying a big balloon that is actually a floating miniature mobile tower, which would help transmit video, audio, text and data to not just those waiting to tackle the disaster but also friends and relatives. The rescue workers will be able to send videos, pictures, text and data to the central command situated elsewhere connected through satellite for speedy policy decision. This balloon mobile tower could be deployed within two hours, said Prof. Devendra Jalihal in an interview to this newspaper on Wednesday. The base station provides coverage for over 20 km and the best part is that the communication platform comes with FM radio transmitter.
‘City needs policy for air pollution’

CSE Wants Action, Not Sparring On Figures

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre for Science and Environment has said that instead of sparring over whose data on air pollution is correct and whether or not Delhi’s air quality is better than Beijing’s, the government needs to recognize that the city’s air quality is extremely poor and needs an urgent policy intervention.

CSE director Sunita Narain, who was part of the team instrumental in getting CNG for public transport, said all gains in air quality after conversion to gas in the early 2000s have been negated due to massive motorization. “We have lost, officially,” she said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, head of CSE’s air pollution control team, said the defence offered by Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, was weak because the air quality index used by them did not give the exact amount of emissions at any point of time.

“In January 2014, IITM claimed PM 2.5 levels hardly touched 350 mg per cubic metre... most days ranged between 400-500 mg per cubic metre... It concluded, based on data for five days for Delhi and

Beijing, that the level remained lower in Delhi at 150-270 mg per cubic metre as compared to Beijing where it reached 500-700 mg per cubic metre. These levels are unacceptably high,” said Roychowdury.

CSE reviewed daily 24-hour average PM 2.5 levels between October 1, 2013 and January 31, 2014 at three monitoring stations in RK Puram, Mandir Marg and Punjabi Bagh. It found that on most days, the levels exceeded the standard by four to seven times and on two occasions exceeded the standard by 10 and eight times respectively.

“If Beijing’s health alert system was applied to Delhi’s winter pollution, out of the total number of days monitored during last four months, only one day would qualify as excellent, while 45 days as heavily polluted and 61 days as severely polluted,” she added.

Dense fog won’t cast another spell

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the city experiencing unusually warm afternoons in the past few days, the Met department has officially bid farewell to long durations of dense fog this season. Fog may occur on some days but will be highly isolated and restricted to a few hours in the morning.

“Satellite and visibility data from airports and other surface data confirm that days of large-scale, long duration dense fog have ended. Fog had occurred regularly and severely affected flights and train schedules between December 15, 2013, and February 2, 2014,” said Dr R K Jena, director in charge, IGI Met.

With 121 hours of dense fog, January 2014 was the third foggiest January ever recorded in the city. The foggiest January was in 2003 with 172 hours of fog, followed by January 2010 with 188 hours of dense fog.

The season, between December 16 and January 31, saw 131 flights getting diverted at the IGI airport. On January 5, dense fog was witnessed at 6.30pm and by 8.30pm, the airport had to be closed. It started clearing by 2.30am but by that time, 32 flights had been diverted. This was the highest number of diversions due to bad weather.

“A new strong western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India between February 5 and 7. During that time, night temperature will be higher than normal. Formation of dense, large-scale fog over the Indi-Gangetic plain is ruled out till at least February 11,” said Jena.

On Wednesday both maximum and minimum temperatures were three degrees below normal at 24.8 and 11.8 degrees Celsius respectively. Trace rainfall was recorded in the morning in some parts. Met officials said that light rain is likely in some parts of the city on Thursday as well.